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HUNGARIAN BATTERY, CABLE FACTORIES

The Varta Storage Battery Plant

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Since November 1951, the Varta Akkumulator Gyar (Varta Storage Battery Plant), listed in 1950 Budapest telephone directory as Varta-Haz, located in Budapest, 44 "0" Ut, Tel 122-386, has been exporting skilled workers as well as batteries to the USSR. Every month an average of 20 workers of either sex is sent to work in the USSR. Before their departure, they participate in a 2-month retraining course. The participants generally are young workers recruited from the province by the Munkaerortalekok Orszagos Hivatala (National Bureau of Manpower Reserves). The plant manager does not tell the trainees that they will be sent to the USSR as soon as they have successfully completed the course. However, the trainees receive excellent accommodations and treatment. A daily 4 hours is devoted to work in the shop, and another 4 hours is taken up by technological studies, including 1 1/2 hours of Russian and political indoctrination.

The trainees are immediately listed as candidates for membership in the Communist Party. As the conclusion of the course, they are told that they may accept a work contract in the Soviet Union. Since the party advises them to accept the contract and since such advice from the party is a command, the trainees are obliged to sign or face expulsion from the party and the training course.

At present, the plant works in three shifts and sends most of its output to the USSR. The plant receives its raw materials from the USSR. In return, it makes 1,000-1,500 batteries for the USSR per month. In January 1952, the plant exported the following batteries:

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<u>Amount</u>	<u>Voltage</u>	<u>Amperes</u>	<u>Type of Car for Which Made</u>
250	6	60	3E3G passenger car
250	6	200	3E1CG passenger car
100	6	58	3De4 passenger car
100	6	86	3Cf7 passenger car
100	12	120	6E6He truck
100	12	200	6E10He truck
100	12	200	6V Sky 210 truck
100	12	180	6III Sky 225 truck

The plant has engaged the Soviet engineer, Davidovich, as director in charge of production. The director's right-hand man is the tyrannical Jozsef Csanyi, the shop steward. His favorite saying is that he will send any worker who dares to be insubordinate to "sleep" in the cellar of the AVH (State Security Authority) building.

Lead Shortage at Kabelgyar

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According to reliable reports, the Soviet-owned Kabelgyar Rt. (Cable Factory Company) had to shut down a few days ago for lack of raw materials, especially lead.

The extent of the lead shortage is pointed up by the fact that for months now household electric clocks have been sealed with strips of paper instead of with lead.

The Kabelgyar is located in Budapest, at 10 Fehervari Ut (the 1950 Budapest telephone directory lists the address at 120 Fehervari Ut).

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